(c) During the visits of External Affairs Minister and senior officials of Government of India to UK recently, Government of UK had suggested resumption of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. In that direction, the Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of General Staff of UK have invited our Chief of the Army Staff to visit UK. The proposal of Government of UK to hold the next meeting of the Indo-UK Defence Consultative Group in India during March 1999 as also been accepted by Government of India. The meeting is scheduled to be held on March 30-31, 1999.

Power Plants in Cauvery Basin

*310. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has sent any proposal for commissioning power plants in the Cauvery Basin (Tamil Nadu); and

(b) if so, the details of such projects and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) There are five projects in Cauvery Basin in respect of which Detailed Projcet Reports has been submitted by The Government of Tamil Nadu to Central Electricity Authority (CEA). These projects have not been cleared by the CEA in view of inter-state river water disputes.

(i) Nellithorai H.E. Project (1x50 MW)

(ii) Cauvery H.E. Project (6x100+5x50=850 MW)

(iii) Bhawani Kattalai (3x2x15 MW)

(iv) Shanmughanadi (1x30 MW)

(v) Upper Amaravati H.E. Project (1x30 MW)

In order to take up the integrated development of hydro-electric projects based on the interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal, the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) was directed to formulate a project proposal. The NHPC has formulated two alternative proposals. The first proposal envisages the construction of three dams with generating units at Mekadatu (550 MW) in Karnataka; Rasimanal (200 MW) and Hogenakkal (120 MW) in Tamil Nadu. The second proposal envisages the construction of two dams; one at Mekadatu (550 MW) and the other at Rasimanal (330 MW). NHPC has undertaken to fund, construct and operate the power projects in the stretch of the river between KRS dam in Karnataka and Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu. A draft Memorandum of Understanding relating to projects to be taken up by NHPC was sent to the Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of Karnataka on 15th January, 1999.

Work Permits for Illegal Migarants

*311. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Miniser of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue work permits to illegal migrants living in India;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme;

(c) whether any time-frame for issuing these permits has been finalised and whether State Governments have been asked to identify persons for issue of work permits; and

(d) the new steps taken to check illegal migration to India?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) There is no such decision.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Unmanned helicopters for armed forces

*312. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to manufacture unmanned helicopters for the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the unmanned helicopters would be helpful for the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Manufacture of unmanned helicopters for the Armed Forces as not yet been considered and decided.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.